



VOL. 1, NO. 3, JANUARY 2009

Inside ...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive,



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

It's hard to believe we are already into a new year. 2008 was quite a year for OYD/OJJ.

Our new Governor started off the year with legislative reforms that gained Louisiana recognition for being in the top 5 states in the country in ethics laws. We braved two hurricanes, and budget reductions. Act 565 was enacted into law and changed our name from OYD to OJJ, at the same time calling for the closure of Jetson, and support for the regional facility concept. In July, Governor Jindal called upon me to serve as Acting Deputy Secretary. It has been a privilege to serve in this administration, and to serve as your deputy secretary.

Looking back on the year, we achieved a lot. We made the official decision to go forward with one statewide assessment tool. We are moving forward with our plans to be accredited by the American Correctional Association. We are making changes to our physical plants, and our procedures that make our facilities safer for our youth and our staff. We have recommitted to adopting the Missouri treatment model in our facilities. We expanded community resources. We are past the halfway mark with the implementation of service coordination. We have increased our contact with all stakeholders, and have continued our collaborations with other agencies like Education, DSS, DHH and Workforce Development. We have much to be proud of.

2009 will be another banner year of opportunities for OJJ. Despite tremendous budget challenges, we will move forward with our reform efforts. There are many things we can do internally, with our policies and practices, that will be beneficial to us as we move forward – that will cost us nothing but our hard work and commitment. We will work smarter, and we will be more efficient and effective. I look forward to all the many opportunities that 2009 will bring!

"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers

Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



Jetson Chaplain Patricia Williams

Nutritious soul food in the New Year will enhance change and provide self-confidence while overcoming the money crunch. Endure the hardships in stride.

Self-examination is imperative, accept the plan, trust new directions, and move to greater heights.

Oppportunity knocks; don't let it pass you by.

Unity is necessary to enforce and strengthen the effects of the chain of command.

Love others as you wish to be loved.

Forgiveness is a good investment, it has no limits and no ending.

Order is a stepping-stone to increased prosperity and will open doors not yet seen.

Opinions have no proven foundation; a good practice is to speak slowly and patiently listen.

Disappointment can prove to be an open door to advancement.

By Patricia Williams, Chaplain, Jetson Center for Youth

THE DAILY MOTIVATOR

Opportunity is everywhere

There's no need to spend a lot of time looking for opportunity. It is everywhere, and every day more opportunities are being created.

There is always work to be done.
There is always value to be created.

Instead of waiting for a new opportunity or searching for the

perfect opportunity, go ahead and get to work. Make the most of some of the opportunities that are already here and now.

There is great value that can be created on this very day. There are problems that can be solved, processes that can be improved

upon, and endless ways to be purposefully creative.

Opportunities are worthless unless they are acted upon. Choose to take the actions that will turn the best opportunities into real and lasting achievements.

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...



Major Mary Gatlin Bridge City Center for Youth

Major Mary Gatlin has seen a lot of changes at Bridge City Center for Youth over the past 19 years. But one thing that has never changed is her unwavering desire to help provide a better environment for the youth in her care.

The kids seem to know that she really cares about them – for a very long time she has been known as “Mama” Gatlin. “I guess I give off a signal about being a mother,” Major Gatlin chuckled.

With four children, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren of her own, being a mama comes naturally. “You never give up on your own kids,” Major Gatlin says. “And we never give up on our kids here at Bridge City. We’re here to re-direct our youth and to follow our mission. If you ever want to give up on them, it’s time to find another job.”

It’s been rough at times but the changes over the years have been positive for the youth, she said. “LA MOD changed Bridge City in a very positive way for the kids. We adapted and embraced it and we’re going forward. Some youth don’t accept things quickly, so we keep on going, never give up, and hope they finally accept the program and work with it.

Opportunity is everywhere, already, right now. Step forward and put it to work.

-- Ralph Marston

As the chairperson for Code of Conduct at BCCY, Major Gatlin sees youth who have violated rules. “I bring them in for hearings on their violations,” she said. “I try to instill in them better ways to get things done, and to remember there is a better way to approach people. I give them a chance to think about what they need to do, how to be polite, how to be a young gentleman.”

“Our kids only do what they know how to do, and often they have only learned from their peers, or on the street. I talk to them, give them the opportunity to think things through. Sometimes they come back to my office with a very different attitude,” Major Gatlin said.

Working with youth is what motivates Mary Gatlin on a daily basis. “I come to work even when I wake up feeling bad, because I get here and start feeling better when I’m around the youth.”

If there is anything she could wish for, it would be finding a solution for the youth before they reach the juvenile justice system. “I wish I could turn them around before they get to the front gate – there must be an answer,” she said. “I look at our kids – so many come from troubled homes. Finding an answer for them would be a miracle. It’s what keeps me coming back. Sooner or later we are going to come up with a plan to keep kids out of trouble.”

“There’s got to be a way to motivate our kids and show them there’s a better way of life than getting into trouble,” she added.

“So many young people today have no guidance or supervision in their world,” she went on. “Parents give up, let them do what they want and block out what’s really going on with their children.

That's why kids come into our system. But we don't ever give up on them."

The Tylertown, Miss. Native has lived in Westwego for many years, and has been with BCCY since September 1989. Major Gatlin started out as a cook in the dining hall and took the test for security a year later. That's where she has been ever since.

On a personal note, Major Gatlin enjoys bingo and fixing Sunday dinner for her family. After Hurricane Katrina, her children are scattered in Texas and Mississippi, so getting everyone together is not as easy.

With a focus on doing what's best for the youth, Major Gatlin is content to keep working on behalf of our most at-risk youth. "Everything I do here is for the kids," Major Gatlin said. "I call them 'my chillens' - they are what it's all about."

Alexandria Regional Office

PPO3 Donna DeSoto was featured in the Avoyelles Parish weekly newspaper as being director of the Teen Court of Avoyelles. He court has just completed its 11th year and is growing stronger. Teen Court emphasizes the concepts of accountability, positive peer influence, youth empowerment and involvement. It is a very effective tool used to expose young people to the criminal justice system.

Regional Manager Johnny Qualls attended a Glock Instructor Development Workshop in Lafayette in December.

The staff enjoyed a Christmas celebration with a chicken and sausage gumbo dinner and gift exchange. The Alexandria OJJ family wishes everyone a happy New Year!

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ welcomes two new PPOs, **Larry Aaron**, Iberville Parish and **Katina Broden**, Placement Unit. We

also joyously welcomed the return of our **Transport Officer Jason Jones** and **PPO2 Trina Stevens**, Pointe Coupee Parish.

It was a long time coming, congratulations to **PPO2 Keondra Riley** on the birth of her new beautiful baby boy, born December 17th, 2008. Aiden weighed 6 lbs., and was 18 1/2 inches long.

Congratulations to our December PPCT **PPO1 Brandon Woods**, **PPO1 Lolita Howard**, **PPO1 Leslie Jones** and **PPO1 Larry Aaron**!

This Christmas the Baton Rouge OJJ Family celebrated the annual Christmas dinner by delivering food baskets filled with all of the things necessary to have an enjoyable Christmas dinner, to several OJJ families. Special thanks to **Social Service Counselors Yolanda Latimer** and **Jennifer Anderson** who suggested and spearheaded the event in an effort to show our kids and families we are here and we really care. Meanwhile, back at the office, we exchanged gifts and enjoyed a variety of snacks and treats throughout the day.

We celebrated a beautiful snowy day at OJJ Baton Rouge by basking in the snow, building snowofficers and throwing a few snowballs. Who would have thought we would see snow in 2008?

Bridge City Center for Youth

BCCY welcomes new **YouthCare Worker 1 Fonia Charles**.

Feature Film ALABAMA MOON Scenes Shot at BCCY



A day of filming at BCCY

The cast and crew of the production of **Alabama Moon** entered the BCCY campus for the first time and began working on November 29, 2008 to prepare the props and the areas throughout the facility to be utilized while filming a number of scenes for the movie. The areas included UJIMA Dormitory, Assistant Director Rickey Wright's office, the fenced area near the Vo-Tech building, the Culinary Arts Dining Hall, the Front Gate and parking lot area and the Recreation Pavilion. Through the heat, the cold, the rain, the sleet, and even snow, there was not one incident that disturbed either the filming or the facility's daily operations. The entire set, filming, and clean up process lasted a total of 20 days. On the last day of filming, the crew utilized the softball recreational field near the Pavilion longer than expected, and in return they delivered four new NFL style footballs, four new NBA style basketballs, and with four new board games for the youth.

The generosity of the crew displayed did not just end with items for the youth, but will be felt throughout the campus for years to come. Before the filming of the scenes on campus, the film crew had copies of the paperback book delivered for the youth and staff to read so we would know something about the film. The picnic tables and benches used throughout the filming were donated to the facility. The crew built a shed used as an escape prop in

the movie, and donated it to the Maintenance Shop and was moved into the Maintenance area to store equipment. Interior props were also donated, including lamps, wall pictures, and woodnotes that will be used to enhance the beauty and therapeutic environment of the facility.

During the preparation and production period, friendships were made and communication between staff and crew allowed for the sharing of information on our goals and the agency's mission, vision, and guiding principles. By building new partnerships with outside sources, we as an agency are building stronger bridges within the community. Our guests were able to witness and attest to the fact that the youth at BCCY are coming here to change their lives, and leaving to make a difference.

Christmas at Bridge City

On Christmas morning **Director Linda London, Assistant Director Rickey Wright, and Ms. Roxann Tuircuit, Director of Social Services**, distributed gifts to each youth in the facility. The youth were eagerly awaiting the Directors' early arrival in their lively decorated dormitories created by their very own hands in themes such as "The Night Before Christmas" and "Kwanzaa." The youth received gift bags that had been prepared by Central Office staff containing personal items as well as recreational items for their entertainment. The youth also received items from BCCY, such as new pajama pants, embroidered polo shirts, fruit donated by BCCY staff, and a copy of the novel **Alabama Moon** provided by the production company and crew who recently filmed scenes of the movie at BCCY during the December as All the youth were excited and grateful as they expressed great pleasure while enjoying their Christmas morning with all the staff present.

UJIMA Dorm Comes Full Circle

During the long dog days of summer excitement and energy filled the air. Despite unforeseen challenges facing BCCY that would forever shape the character of our leadership and staff, OJJ embarked on an ambitious new, innovative system of care that would change the manner in which we worked with kids.

Thus the Louisiana Model (LaMod) was born. The birth of LaMod also brought the opening of a new dorm named UJIMA. The name was fitting – its translation means "collective works and responsibility." With an eager staff and eight youth UJIMA opened on June 10, 2005, becoming the model for all other LaMod Dorms.

Over the past three years BCCY has continued to promote the LaMod principles by being the first Youth Facility to completely embrace the system, in all but one dorm. Ironically, UJIMA is the last dorm to come back on line after a massive renovation and facelift to the facility. Now the circle is complete.

Director Linda London and the staff are proud to announce that on December 20, 2008, UJIMA reopened under the leadership of **Ms. Emily Williams (Group Leader)** and **Mr. Keith Joseph (Assistant Group Leader)**.

As in the beginning, a new energy fills BCCY.

Central Office

CO welcomes two **student workers, Tanisha Bush** and **ShaBrittaney Dalcourt**.

The CO Library became Santa's Workshop as staff got together to pack 500 gift bags for the youth at BCCY, JCY and SCY to open on Christmas morning. **Director of Volunteer Services Yolanda Ellis** obtained lots of personal items (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, socks and puzzle books), and for the

second year, Jeanmarie Creations, LLC, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, donated the gift bags. The Advocate newspaper and WAFB-TV Channel 9 came out to cover the action. CO staff who don't have the opportunity to visit the facilities are happy to help out, so they can show support for the facility staff and youth.



The Advocate
featured staff packing the gift bags.



Central Office staff pack gift bags for our kids

Getting a head start on the holiday feasting, Central Office enjoyed a Christmas luncheon featuring lots of great food and fabulous desserts. Many thanks to committee members **Nita Franklin Shanklin, Katherine Abrams, Marvel Adams, Clarett Blount, Suzie Durett, NyKisha Franklin, Shirley Jackson, Kimberly Jones, Katie Kirkpatrick, Gail Miller, Glenda Ratcliff** and **Terri Scott and Shaeki Shanklin**.

"Entertainment" was provided by the Administrative Team Choir, led by **HR Director Gwendolyn Jones**. Her unruly (and sometime tone-deaf) performers included **Mary Livers, Deputy Secretary; Prince Gray, Asst. Secretary; James Bueche,**

Undersecretary; Paula Roddy, Deputy Undersecretary; Marlyn Goins-McCants, Chief of Staff; Ellyn (Barbor) Peterson, Chief of Operations/Deputy Asst. Secretary-CQIS; Carolyn Lewis, Deputy Asst. Secretary, Community Based Services; Philippe Magloire, Deputy Asst. Secretary, Facilities; Kim Mims, Director of Education; Martha Morgan, General Counsel; Glenn Holt, Project Manager, Facility Services and Jerel Giarrusso, Communications Director.



The Administrative Team Choir performs and entertains the staff.

Highlights of the program were the participatory number Twelve Days of Christmas complete with props (**Ellyn Peterson** was the best partridge ever); a duet featuring Silent Night, with **Gwen Jones** and **Ellyn Peterson**; the truly touching solo performance of O, Christmas Tree by **Prince Gray**; Joy to the World, and Jingle Bells, accompanied by authentic sleigh bells (sans one horse or the sleigh).

The side-splitting finale' was performed by **Prince Gray**, **James Bueche** and **Glenn Holt**, appropriately performing We Three Kings of Orient Are. The photo below says it all.



"Kings" include Glenn Holt, Prince Gray and James Bueche.

Hammond Regional Office

Anniversary:

PPO3 Wendy Clark with 13 years of state service.

Births in the Hammond OJJ Family:

PPO2 Matt Bauer has a new son, Brady Thomas Bauer, born on December 11, 2008.

PPO2 Mark Benton has a new son, Trent Gabriel, born on November 20, 2008.

Both babies are healthy and doing well. Congratulations to both families.

Jetson Center for Youth

Congratulations to our Employees of the quarter, July - September:

Youthcare Worker of the Quarter:
M/Sgt. Martha Barnes

Treatment Employee of the Quarter:
Ricardo Williams

Education Employee of the Quarter:
Carrie Stewart

Supervisor of the Quarter: **Robert Young**
Administrative Employee of the Quarter: **Beverly Everson**

JCY welcomes new IT Tech Support Analyst 1 Terry Tate.



Nursing Director Katherine Erwin sent this great photo. Rain or shine, sleet or snow, pill call is on!!! LPN Karen Valentine, one of our Pill Call nurses, on duty Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2008.

On Dec. 12, 12 youth went on an off-campus trip, bowling at Metro Bowl. The youth and the staff bowled for two hours and then enjoyed pizza and sodas. **Director Daron Brown** reports the youth were very excited about the trip. "I am always excited when we can do something like this because we are supporting the Mission and the Vision of our agency. We are changing kids' lives at JCY because we have faith in our youth and staff," Director Brown said.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

The Lafayette office employees participated in a door decorating contest judged by Dr. Donna Aucoin. All of the doors were festive and creative. Winners were awarded Chick-fil-A gift certificates. Winners included Best Male category, **Chris Potier**, with a beautiful black glitter interpretation of the New Orleans Saints fleur de lis and red glitter interpretation of the University of Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns. Also in that category was winner **Ken Stewart** for "Close to First" with a gold door honoring a Cajun-Creole Christmas, including a history of Cajun

Christmas traditions. Best Female, **Kristi Credeur**, swept her category with a Tweety Bird background and interactive singing penguin. Best Duo, **Joey Graciana** and **Heather Campbell**, created elves, who uncannily resembled many of the Lafayette employees. Wackiest category winner **Denis LaCroix** presented a door with torn wrapping paper and Roloids depicting the "Morning After Christmas." Great job guys! Can't wait to see the doors next year.

Lafayette OJJ participated in its annual Christmas luncheon on December 23, 2008. **Joey and Cheryl Denais** provided all employees with a delicious chicken and sausage gumbo and all the trimmings'. All in attendance agreed the gumbo was fantastic!

PPO3 Denis LaCroix, assigned to the Acadia Parish court system, attended the very first graduation at the Acadiana Marine Institute, our relatively new residential program in Branch. Three youths were honored including Brandon A., Daniel F., and Denis' client Zachary L. Officer LaCroix reports that it was a very moving ceremony with personal testimonies by the youth, their families, and the staff of AMI. He says there was hardly a dry eye in the place, and added that it was refreshing to see AMI's staff, from the counselors down to the kitchen staff, praise these young men. Denis said it was apparent that AMI staff had their kids in their hearts. He gave what he described as a "tearful talk" reinforcing that the reason we do what we do as probation officers, to see these kids succeed like Brandon, Daniel, and Zachary. He encourages other officers to participate in future graduations and ensures them that it will make them proud of these kids.

One Accord!



PPS 3 Kenneth Stewart, seated, plays the accordion, with PPO 2 Brian Simpson standing directly behind him singing, and PPO 2 Deacon Jones standing with the washboard.

"Deacon hits the washboard, and people just got to smile;

Kevin & Mike thump the gut bass, and Brian solos for a while.

Kenneth twangs the rhythm out, on his kalamazoo (well, his accordion);

Karla goes into a dance, and doubles on kazoo."

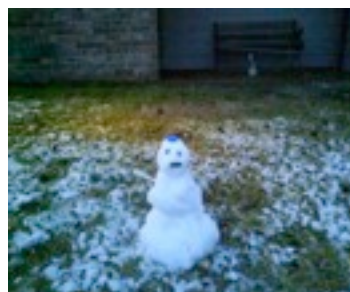
"Down on the corner, out in the street, Kenneth and the Poor Boys are playing, bring a nickel, tap your feet!"

No, it wasn't Credence Clearwater Revival on the road again. It was **Kenneth Stewart** and his OJJ Quartet at Landry's Restaurant in New Iberia on December 13th. Well, sort of. Let me explain. Veteran **PPS 3 Ken Stewart** (he's been with the agency for three decades) has a tradition of treating his PPO unit to dinner every Christmas season. Ken, who moonlights as an accordion-playing musician with a number of Cajun music bands (he even played at the famous Jazz Festival in New Orleans this year), was playing with one of his groups called Cajun Accent at Landry's Restaurant in "the Berry" as he does nearly every weekend. Well, during intermission **PPO 2 Brian Simpson** sang "I'm Coming Home" while co-workers **PPO 2 Kevin Broussard** (also known as "Music Man") played bass,

PPO 2 Mike Waters picked the electric guitar, and **PPO Deacon Jones** sounded the washboard. Adding flavor to the festivities, **PPO 3 Lynnette Broussard**, **PPO 1 Beth Broussard**, and **PPO 2 Karla Meranto** "cut the rug" displaying their two-step/jitterbug talents. Others attending the joyous occasion and eating to their hearts' delight were **PPS Steve Neef**, **PPO 2 Rosanna Langner**, **PPO 1 Jody Osmer**, and **PPO 1 Bobby Jessett** and their lovely spouses or dates, of course.

Lake Charles Regional Office

On December 11, 2008, Lake Charles had a small amount of snow, and **PPO Fred Fontenot** built a snowman outside the office. The little snowman was named **O.J. Jones**, and he was "just chillin'." O.J. Jones forced even the morning "scrooges" to smile.



Our officers displayed great dedication to service as they continued to work through the "snow day" office closure. With the holidays upon us there was work to be done... and Lake Charles OJJ got it done!

Lake Charles OJJ welcomes three new PPOs: **Angela Stevens**, **Jeffery Haley**, and **Hollie Comeaux**. We are so glad to have you all join the Lake Charles OJJ family. And, job well done completing a week of PPCT Defensive Tactics Training.

Anniversaries:

Congratulations to **PPO3 Fred Fontenot** on celebrating 11 years with OJJ.

Congratulations to PPO3 Monet Newman on celebrating three years with OJJ.

Congratulations to **PPO1 Garrick Chambers** on celebrating one year with OJJ.

Lake Charles OJJ is now back in our old building after the flooding of Hurricane Ike. We are still trying to get our office in order, but we are glad to be "home."

On December 23, 2008, the Lake Charles OJJ staff enjoyed a pot luck Christmas lunch and a gift exchange to celebrate the holidays.

On December 17, 2008, **Regional Manager Ann Vick, PPO Monet Newman, PPO Rebecca Harmon, and PPS Ken Vidrine** attended the Southwest Louisiana Marine Institute's Christmas Program and supported our juveniles as they remembered the reason for the season.

The Lake Charles OJJ staff completed the Service Coordination training during December. The post-testing results were great, and everyone did an excellent job. Thank you to special SC presenters **Delisa Clark, Monet Newman, Janice Manual, Brenda Parish, Melissa Cross, and Ken Vidrine.**

Monroe Regional Office

Monroe OJJ provided Christmas food to a needy Morehouse Parish family. Staff donated food items and **Regional Manager Patty Newman** purchased a turkey. The family was very grateful.

We welcomed two new Probation Officers: **Steve Pelfrey** and **T.J. Malveaux**.

Linda Williams, Orlando Davis and Gail Wilson assisted with the QA Review at SCY December 9-11.

Monroe OYD held its annual Christmas Party Dec. 18. We enjoyed the good food and our 'Dirty Santa' gift exchange.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Natchitoches OJJ welcomes new employees:

PPOs James Hembree, Deanna Williams, Heather Christophe and Kelvin Jones.

And we welcome our new Northwestern State University Interns: **Erica Mott, Thelma Pania, and Danielle Washington.**

Congratulations to NSU Interns Dana Jackson and Rose Brown, who graduated from Northwestern State University on December 19, 2008. These ladies served as interns from August – December 2008.

Congratulations to **AC3 Monica Breedlove**, two of whose children graduated from college. Naomi Bynog graduated from NSU in Criminal Justice and Eric Breedlove graduated from Louisiana Technical College in Industrial Maintenance.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Regional Manager Angela Koenig sent the photo below...a famous New Orleans streetcar...being pelted by the December snow!



The Orleans Region is delighted to welcome several new employees: **PPO1 Julia Jack, PPO1 Darlinta Cook, Transport Officers Joni Seymour and Willie McGee and Administrative Coordinator 1 Jaleesa Williams.**

PPO3 Stanley Schofield has been nominated for the Tom Joyner Hardest Working Award. He is described on the nomination certificate as the "Hardest Working Community Leader" and is also admired for going "Beyond Expectations."

PPO2 Milton Crosby Sr.'s son Milton Crosby Jr. is a student at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Milton Jr. recently starred in a play entitled "The Foreigner" at ULM. The reviews state "the play is comedy all the way through...it is made hilarious through dialogue and Charlie's (character played by Milton Jr.) quite outrageous acting."

Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations:

PPO Steve Martino was awarded the Leadership Award for demonstrating the quality skills essential to being a great Probation and Parole Officer.

Dewain Wilemon is the December Probation and Parole Officer of the Month.

OJJ Shreveport welcomes three new members to the family: **PPO1 Charles Davis, WAE Officer Jessica Flores and PPO1 LaTonya Marshall.**

Best wishes to **PPO 1 Todd Carlisle**, who started the POST Academy this month.

Swanson Center for Youth

A note of thanks from **Swanson Director Jerry Ward:**

If I have not thanked everyone for your support during my time of sorrow, please accept this as my **THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY OF HEART, WARMTH OF SPIRIT AND GRACE IN GIVING.**

You, the staff have a miraculous way of always being there when I need you.

Thank you so much.

On a lighter note: New Year's is like a new chapter in a journal – you get to write just what you want. As the next year approaches, there is still much to do before it's over.

I want each and every one of you to have a **HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BE SAFE.**

Anniversaries:

Congratulations to **Sgt. Donald Armstrong** and **Deputy Director Calvin Hawkins** on both celebrating 20 years at Swanson.

CPM Rodney Ward celebrates 10 years with Swanson.

Sgt. Erma Cail has been with Swanson for 5 years.

SCY welcomes new **Corrections Cadets Verdegra Dixon, Maurice Dyer, Janet Watson, Phillippe White and Ardrianne Zinnerman.**

Robert Moffett Serves on Contren Revision Panel

Robert Moffett, Southside Alternative High School/Swanson Center for Youth's Building Trade Vocational instructor (carpentry) recently served on a panel to revise the Contren Learning Series curriculum. Members of the panel are recognized as experts in their respective vocational areas. We applaud Mr. Moffett for his dedication, hard work, and for the recognition accorded him by the National Center for Construction Education and Research, which invited him to serve as an expert

to participate in the revision of the Contren Learning Series curriculum.

you're comfortable, a friendly hug doesn't hurt.

Linda Harrell, Administrative Assistant to the Director, shares Ten Things To Do for a Co-Worker in Grief:

1. Contact other co-workers to let them know the situation.
2. Attend the funeral, phone or visit you co-worker personally to extend your condolences.
3. When your co-worker returns to work, acknowledge his/her loss and grief. Don't wait for the "right" thing to say to come to you. The wrong thing is to say nothing.
4. Personalize what you say: "I remember how much I loved my brother. I'm so sorry about ____'s death." Shared feelings communicate more than good advice. Avoid "judgmental" comments that begin, "You should" ... "You shouldn't" or clichés such as, "It was God's will" ... "You'll get over it in time", "I know just how you feel." Don't minimize or assume you comprehend the complexities or depth of another's loss.
5. If you're able, offer to share the person's workload. Sometimes the smallest gesture lightens the load.
6. Be there. Listen. Let your co-worker express their pain, anger, disbelief or guilt.
8. Remember your co-worker on special day such as holidays, birthdays or the anniversary of the loved one's death. Maybe send a card saying you're thinking of them or one that recounts a positive story of their loved one.
9. Offer to make phone calls, drive or run errands.
10. Touch communicates a great deal. If it's appropriate and you believe the gesture will be welcomed, and if

Principal William Lee, HR Analyst Janis Smith and Adm. Asst. 5 Linda Harrell attended the Christmas open house at the Center for Children and Families Foundation, one of our providers in Monroe. In order to make Christmas an enjoyable time for disadvantaged children, the Center for Children and Families asked individuals, families, and organizations in the Monroe area to adopt a child for the holiday. Those who adopted a child were asked to purchase a set of clothes, including shoes and underwear, a toy, and if possible, a dream gift.

Principal Lee, on behalf of the faculty and staff of Southside Alternative High adopted 17 year old Eric. The school purchased a full set of clothes for Eric, a coat, MP3 player, and a tabletop stereo.



Principal William Lee, with gifts for SCY's "adopted" Christmas child.

Tallulah Regional Office

Regional Manager Ruth Stephens' husband is home after a month at the University of Texas Hospital in Tyler, Texas.

Tallulah OJJ enjoyed their Christmas Party on December 18th with good food and gifts.

PPO Janet Pierce will start the POST academy in January.

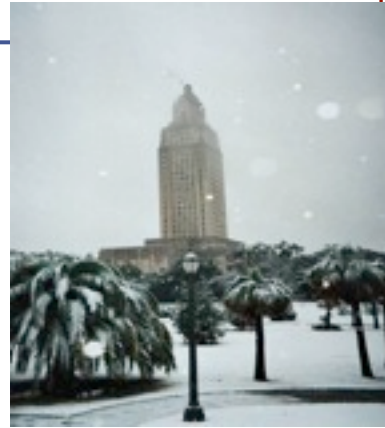
Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulation to **PPO 2 Heidi Brown**, Employee of the Month.

We celebrated Christmas by having a meal together as 2008 came to a close. We have weathered some serious storms and one day of snow this year, but we are resilient and strong. We persevered through rough periods and we are ready for whatever comes our way in 2009!!!! Thibodaux OJJ wishes everyone and their families a wonderful New Year.

Let it Snow....

Since south Louisiana experiences a significant snowfall only once or twice in a lifetime, we thought it might be fun to share some snow pictures of the State Capitol. Central Office Administrative Assistant Gwen Brinkley's friend at the Department of Economic Development sent these shots.



The Inside Scoop...of

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office Chief of Staff's Team with input from staff statewide.

...until next

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Marlyn Goins-McCants, Chief of Staff
James Bueche, Undersecretary
Paula Roddy, Deputy Undersecretary
Ellyn (Barbor) Peterson, Chief of Operations/
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Quality Improvement Services
Carolyn B. Lewis, Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Community Based Services
Philippe Magloire, Deputy Assistant Secretary,
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Kim B. Mims, Director of Education
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Lake Charles: Melissa Cross
Monroe: Gail Wilson
Natchitoches: Rosa Brownlee
New Orleans: Paulette Carter
Shreveport: Kimberly Waddles
Swanson: Linda Harrell
Tallulah: LaJuana Harrell
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